



PLACER COUNTY
SHERIFF
CORONER-MARSHAL



MAIN OFFICE
P.O. BOX 6990
AUBURN, CA 95604
PH: (530)889-7800 FAX: (530)889-7899

TAHOE SUBSTATION
DRAWER 1710
TAHOE CITY, CA 96145
PH: (530)581-6300 FAX: (530)581-6377

EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

**** **UPDATE** ****

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Date/Time of Release:	Tuesday, June 28, 2005
Date/Time of Occurrence	Thursday, June 23, 2005
Nature of Event:	Sheriff's Rescuers Return From Yosemite
Location of Call:	Yosemite, CA

Released by: Dena Erwin, CSO, (530) 889-6922

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

The Placer County Sheriff's Mountain Rescue Team has returned from the search for a missing Yosemite hiker.

Eight team members were dispatched to Yosemite National Park late Thursday afternoon. They were searching for 51-year-old Michael Ficery who was last seen June 15. He was reported missing June 21, two days after his wilderness permit expired. Ficery has not been found.

The team was flown by helicopter into the search site, which is above the 7,000-foot elevation. The area is extremely steep and still covered in deep snow, making for dangerous conditions.

The highly specialized high-angle mountain rescuers were led by Deputy Dennis Meeh and consisted of volunteers Craig Custer, John Glabas, Michael Gnafakis and Kyoji Miyazaki. Ground rescuers were Shawn Gillogly, Ross Magnuson and Dennis Mancebo.

According to Deputy Meeh, the team spent four days in the high-altitude backcountry of Yosemite. The volunteers responded in the middle of the week, taking time off from their jobs.

"They searched a pre-designated area for three days in very rough terrain without any support," said Meeh. "We are fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers who give up so much of their own time."

Placer County responded at the request of the State of California Office of Emergency Services mutual aid command post. The team worked at the direction of the National Park Service. In 2001, the Placer County Sheriff's Mountain Rescue Team was the second in the state to ever become nationally certified for dangerous mountain rescues.

This press release is available on the Placer County Sheriff's website at [Http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff](http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff)